

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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CHP ASKS FIFTH WHEEL OWNERS TO CHECK FOR SAFETY GLASS

SACRAMENTO — Californians who own fifth wheel travel trailers are urged to check their vehicles to make sure they are fitted with safety glass.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association have learned that some fifth wheel travel trailers have been shipped to California without the required safety glass.

Fifth wheel trailer owners can identify safety glass by the letters DOT (for US Department of Transportation) followed most often by the designation AS-1, AS-2 or AS-3, although other AS designations are acceptable. The letters are etched in the glass.

"We want to save fifth wheel trailer passengers from injuries caused by flying glass in the event of a crash," said CHP Commissioner D. O. Helmick.

California allows passengers to ride in fifth wheel travel trailers provided certain conditions, including safety glass, are met. Because some other states do not require safety glass, some fifth wheel travel trailers have been shipped here without safety glass, according to Ernie Friesen, president of the California Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association.

Glass in windows, doors, interior partitions and roof openings must meet the safety criteria. Both new and used vehicles are covered by the law.

Dealers in California may not sell, or offer for sale, any fifth wheel travel trailer which is not equipped with safety glass in all places where glass is used.

Owners who have questions about the glass in their fifth wheel travel trailers should contact the manufacturer or the dealer who sold them the vehicle.

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